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(Atty. Docket No.: FHW-081US)

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT DESIGNATED OFFICE (DO/US)
(National Phase of International Appln.: PCT/GB 99/03724,
Publication No. WO 00/27479**

In re the
application of: **Charles Osborn READE**

International Application No.: **PCT/GB 99/03724**

International Filing Date: **9 November 1999**

U.S. Serial No.: **Not yet assigned**

Filed: **Herewith**

For: **FLAME ARRESTER**

Attorney Docket No.: **FHW-081US**

BOX PCT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination of the above-referenced patent application, please amend the above-titled International patent application as follows.

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 10, 14, 16, and 18.

3. (Amended) A flame arrester according to claim 1 wherein the rods are of solid material.

4. (Amended) A flame arrester according to claim 1 wherein the rods are tubes.